

(LIMITED RUN SHOWING ALL ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIPS)

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 34

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVES PATKOTAK, Rasmussen, Thompson, Cronk, Rauscher, Gillham, McCabe, McKay, Nelson, Schrage, Vance, Kaufman, Fields, Tilton, McCarty, Merrick, Hopkins, Johnson, Stutes, Josephson, Kurka**

**SENATORS Revak, Costello, Myers, Shower, Hughes, Reinbold, Kawasaki, Holland, von Imhof, Stevens, Bishop, Wilson, Micciche**

**Introduced: 2/22/22**

**Referred: Resources**

### A RESOLUTION

1    **Supporting oil and gas leasing and development within the National Petroleum Reserve**  
2    **in Alaska.**

3    **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4            **WHEREAS**, in 1923, President Warren G. Harding issued an Executive Order  
5    establishing Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 on the North Slope region to provide a potential  
6    supply of oil for the United States Navy; and

7            **WHEREAS** 42 U.S.C. 6501 (Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976)  
8    redesignated Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 as the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska  
9    and transferred responsibility for its administration to the Secretary of the Interior; and

10           **WHEREAS** the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska encompasses 23,500,000  
11    acres, with boundaries extending south from Icy Cape to the drainage divide of the Brooks  
12    Range, then following the divide eastward to 156 degrees west longitude, then north to the  
13    Colville River, and following the Colville River downstream to its mouth; and

14           **WHEREAS** the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska falls entirely within the  
15    boundary of the North Slope Borough and includes the communities of Atqasuk, Nuiqsut,

1 Utqiagvik, and Wainwright; and

2 **WHEREAS**, in 2017, the United States Geological Survey estimated there to be  
3 8,700,000,000 barrels of recoverable oil and 25,000,000,000,000 cubic feet of recoverable gas  
4 reserves in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska; and

5 **WHEREAS** the 2020 National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan  
6 and Environmental Impact Statement estimates potential annual government revenue,  
7 including local, state, and federal taxes and royalties, of \$730,000,000 to \$4,750,000,000 from  
8 oil and gas development in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska; and

9 **WHEREAS** the 2020 National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan  
10 and Environmental Impact Statement estimates that the exploration, development, and  
11 production of oil and gas in the Reserve could generate 3,600 direct jobs and 2,750 indirect  
12 jobs annually over a period of 30 years; and

13 **WHEREAS** state royalties from oil and gas development in the National Petroleum  
14 Reserve in Alaska are allocated to the NPR-A Impact Mitigation Fund, which is used to  
15 provide the local communities of Anaktuvuk Pass, Atkasuk, Nuiqsut, Wainwright, Utqiagvik,  
16 and the North Slope Borough with grants to mitigate impacts related to oil and gas  
17 development; and

18 **WHEREAS**, in January of 2022, the Department of the Interior took action that would  
19 effectively revert management of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska to the 2013  
20 Integrated Activity Plan, removing 7,000,000 acres of the National Petroleum Reserve in  
21 Alaska from potential oil and gas development; and

22 **WHEREAS** the 2020 National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan  
23 was developed in partnership with the North Slope Borough and in consultation with North  
24 Slope tribes and Alaska Native corporations and it included provisions that would have  
25 ensured future economic development opportunities for the North Slope region, allowed for  
26 community infrastructure needs to be considered in the National Petroleum Reserve in  
27 Alaska, and required that areas identified by local and Alaska Native entities be excluded  
28 from future leasing; and

29 **WHEREAS** the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, the Inupiat Community of the  
30 Arctic Slope, and the North Slope Borough are all united in opposition to the Department of  
31 the Interior's reversion from the 2020 NPR-A Integrated Activity Plan to the 2013 NPR-A

1 Integrated Activity Plan and have expressed concern that this reversion diminishes Alaska  
 2 Native self-determination by ignoring the needs, concerns, and input of the local people who  
 3 live, work, and subsist in and around the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska; and

4 **WHEREAS** oil and gas development in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska has  
 5 the potential to extend the life of the Trans Alaska Pipeline System and increase throughput,  
 6 which has declined from a peak of 2,033,000 average barrels of oil a day in 1988 to 477,800  
 7 average barrels of oil a day in 2021; and

8 **WHEREAS** the failure of the Department of the Interior to consult with the Inupiat  
 9 Community of the Arctic Slope and the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation before taking  
 10 sweeping action violates Executive Order 13175: Consultation and Coordination with Indian  
 11 Tribal Governments; and

12 **WHEREAS** oil and gas development in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska  
 13 would strengthen national security and provide long-lasting benefits to the national economy  
 14 by creating thousands of jobs nationwide, generating billions of dollars in government  
 15 revenue, providing affordable energy to American consumers, and decreasing dependence on  
 16 foreign energy; and

17 **WHEREAS** safe and responsible oil and gas exploration, development, and  
 18 production has been demonstrated by over 50 years of activity on the North Slope region  
 19 without adverse effects on the environment or wildlife populations;

20 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States  
 21 Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, to maximize the area available for  
 22 oil and gas leasing and development within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska while  
 23 conserving and protecting valued fish, wildlife, subsistence, and cultural resources; and be it

24 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States  
 25 Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, when considering management  
 26 activities related to the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, to take into account the long  
 27 history of safe and responsible oil and gas development on the North Slope region and the  
 28 enormous benefits development of oil and gas resources in the National Petroleum Reserve in  
 29 Alaska would bring to local communities, tribal governments, the state, and the nation.

30 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President  
 31 of the United States; the Honorable Kamala D. Harris, Vice President of the United States and

1 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Deb Haaland, United States Secretary of the  
2 Interior; the Honorable Tracy Stone-Manning, Director, Bureau of Land Management, U.S.  
3 Department of the Interior; Thomas Heinlein, Acting Alaska State Director, Bureau of Land  
4 Management, U.S. Department of the Interior; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the  
5 Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,  
6 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.